

'Murdered' Wycombe get an ovation at Ayresome

# Last-gasp Armstrong spares Jack's blushes



Keith Searle resists a double Boro challenge from John Hickton and Stuart Boam

**A LAST - GASP goal by Derek Armstrong spared the blushes at Ayresome Park last night of Jack ('We'll murder 'em') Charlton.**

After last Saturday's shock third round FA Cup goalless draw at Wycombe, the Boro managed had boasted what his side would do in the replay.

But Wanderers heroically held the joint First Division leaders until the last seconds of this remarkable replay.

They almost earned extra time—and definitely earned probably the greatest ovation ever given to a beaten side at Ayresome Park. The 30,000 crowd chanted: 'Wycombe! Wycombe!' over and over again at the end and demanded and received a salute from the Isthmian leaguers.

Armstrong, though the scorer of the last-minute winner can be only a secondary hero. First must come the entire side from High Wycombe who had shown not only spirit, but professional-like organisation and skill.

Graeme Soumess provided the last crucial pass of the tie and Armstrong's left foot coolly beat

**By DOUG WEATHERALL: Middlesbrough 1, Wycombe W. 0**

John Maskell, who had previously looked unbeatable.

Middlesbrough had the early chances to have made sure of a fourth round place but the untarnished fact was that two of the half's three best goalkeeping stops were by Middlesbrough's Jim Platt.

And all the pressure and ingenuity in varying attacks that the First Division's joint leaders could muster still failed to rattle the composure of a remarkably cool Wycombe defence.

## Well-drilled

David Mills, Middlesbrough's England Under-23 striker, had an excellent chance to make all later tensions unnecessary as early as the 99th second.

He was clear of all challenges but he hurried a left-foot shot high and wide.

Howard Kennedy, of Wycombe, produced the next two shots worth mentioning as the non-Leaguers showed they were not just there to defend.

His first, a free kick in the fourth minute, was blocked, but

the threat was there all right. It went like a bomb.

The next, in the 13th minute, was a 25-yarder struck equally cleanly, and Platt dived to his right to save.

Armstrong volleyed into goal after a John Craggs' corner but the whistle had already gone for a pushing offence. Then Armstrong wasted another sifter chance after John Hickton flicked on a pass from the right.

Maskell had his first real save to make in the 25th minute when Graeme Soumess volleyed left-footed. But Platt then had to make another good save at the other end. Steve Perrin having smashed a first-time shot after the best one-touch move of the game which swept across the field from left to right.

The crowd's demands for the entry of substitute Alan Willey were answered on the hour. As on Saturday it was Foggon who went off—uninjured.

**MIDDLESBROUGH:** Platt, Craggs, Spraggon, Soumess, Bonn, Madgren, Charlton, Mills, Hickton, Foggon, Armstrong. Sub: Willey.  
**WYCOMBE:** Maskell, Birdseye, Hand, Mead, Phillips, Reardon, Periss, Keoughy, Searle, Holtz, Horseman. Sub: Evans.